REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees.

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims to remove all multiple dependencies. This avoids the surcharge.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Date: April 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263 1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone: (202) 263-4300 Fax: (202) 263-4329

14